Charlotte Mason's House of Education,
Scale How, Ambleside, UK, 2009

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Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada
Conseil de recherches en sciences humaines du Canada
Canada

presents now showered upon children, on their early religious beliefs (their *real* ones I mean, not those inculcated by authority). Her scheme, too, for feeding some of the thousands of ill-nourished little ones to be found in our elementary schools seems to a mere man to be very practical and to serve a double purpose.

The report of the Secondary Education Commission is discussed by T. J. Macnamara in the *Fortnightly*, and by Professor Masson in the *Contemporary* for December. On the whole it is approved by both. It is very evident that something must be done, and that quickly, to provide means of education as good and under as good conditions for our middle-class children, as is now given free in our Board Schools. I notice that both writers incidentally condemn our present system of competitive scholarships.

There is a good article in the *Nineteenth Century*, by the Hon. E. Lyulph Stanley, on "Re-opening the Educational Settlement"; and Mr. Deane replies to his critics, but without making any fresh points; and in the *Forum* for October, Mr. J. Gilmer Speed asks for higher pay for teachers. This will readily be conceded if coupled, as he couples it, with a "better training," especially if he is justified in saying that through the inefficiency of the country schools the American peasantry are "as illiterate and unlearned as any class of people in the world. They can read and they can write, but they do not understand what they read, and, never having been taught how to think, they are the easy victims of every bustling demagogue who promises to give them something for nothing. The American farmer of two generations ago was a better educated man than is the American farmer of to-day."

I may mention, though it comes outside my province, the excellent notices that have appeared of Professor Sully's new book, "Studies of Childhood."

December 14th, 1895. PATER JUNIOR.

OUR WORK.

The House of Education.—We begin work 18th inst. The outgoing students have left us, with regret indeed, but full of hope and courage and the desire, and we believe the capacity, to do good work. The first number of the Students' Magazine is issued this month. The *esprit de corps* which has led the ex-students to start this magazine, to form themselves into a society, and to adopt a most inspiring badge, is a very promising sign, for the object of these quite spontaneous efforts is to enable the solitary workers to maintain, at a high level, the enthusiasm which fired them during their training. We have as yet seen only a preliminary issue of the magazine, and we found the spirit of earnestness and devotion to their work, shewn by the writers, very touching and very cheering. We know our readers will be interested in this bit of news, and will wish good-speed to the infant magazine.

Mothers will be interested to know that there will probably be vacancies for three months' students during each of the terms this year, as the change to a two years' training causes irregularities. This short course is

open to girls (of about eighteen) who have left school *and who do not propose to teach*. Apply to the Secretary.

Parents' Review School.—We continue to get very encouraging letters about the work done in the P.R.S. Again and again we learn that boys and girls who have worked in it, take "a very high place" when they go to other schools. We are looking forward with interest to the work of examining. May we once again impress on parents the importance of getting good teaching in arithmetic. A weekly lesson from the master of an elementary school, with practise on the other days, would secure satisfactory results. Term begins January 15th. Children may be admitted at any time.

Mothers' Educational Union.—Our class of mother-students increases rapidly, but we wish all would take the examinations. Any mothers who wish to part with their books might do well to write to the Secretary, House of Education, on the subject.

THE "P.R." LETTER BAG.

[*The Editor is not responsible for the opinions of Correspondents*].

DEAR EDITOR,—I wonder whether you, or any of the readers of the *Parents' Review* can suggest any way of amusing a girl of 11½, who may neither read, write, nor work by candle-light, and who is obliged to have "brain rest as well as eye rest." I shall be extremely obliged for any hints, as I know hardly any games that can be played without using the eyes—or any occupations except basket-making. I should also be glad to know where materials for making really strong, useful baskets can be procured. I am also anxious to know of some nice, instructive French books suitable for reading aloud to the same child. She is not allowed to do any regular lessons, only "what amuses her," and as she is very fond of history and natural history, I should like to know of some French books on these subjects—well-written, and sufficiently interesting and amusing for her to wish to have them read. She has read and liked Madame Therèse. If you can insert this in the December number, I shall be much obliged.

Pusey Rectory, Faringdon. Yours truly, H. de F.

P.S.—I should be much obliged for a list of Historical Novels, suitable for this child, stating about what period each is written. Those given in the 3rd vol. of the *Parents' Review* are not at all suitable for such a young child.

DEAR EDITOR,—I write to ask if you, or any of your readers, could provide me with all the numbers of *Parents' Review* for *this* year, either bound or unbound, and, if the former, what the price would be.

Bradfield, nr. Reading. Yours truly, ISABEL SYMES.

DEAR EDITOR,—I have the *Parents' Review* from '91 to the present date, perfect (unbound), and would part with the numbers for 25/- Do you know of anyone who would like them?

Sincerely yours, W. V. VAN HOLST.

46, Lansdown Crescent, Cheltenham.